

**From:** Brian R. Burton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 11/20/01 5:24pm  
**Subject:** bogus product registration

Dear DOJ:

I have noticed that after installing Office:mac 2001 (which is not my choice for the computer lab I direct, but because of the monopoly, the IT department here requires it; or perhaps Microsoft requires it of them?) on the various iMacs we have in the lab, that to register the product a "Passport" account is required. If you don't have one (I don't), you are just told to register later; thus leaving the product unregistered. This "Passport" account is another product of Microsoft's apparently designed to facilitate their .Net strategy of storing personal information to be used for commerce in the future. I don't think one ought to be required to sign on to another product during the registration process of a product. Whether you care or not, that's my two cents worth.

Besides this, I think your settlement is a cave-in and very wrongheaded. It may protect foreign competitors like Sony who probably would have had their "oxygen supply" cut off prior to the settlement, what with them being both a Windows licensee and a competitor to the XBox with their Play Station, but it does nothing for the American companies whose focus has been on innovative products in a "competitive marketplace." As it turns out, the marketplace wasn't that competitive. I currently see an entire industry almost totally controlled by one company; indeed, one man. For the future, I see an entire economy and nation controlled by this same one company; one man.

Anyway, I have somehow managed to continue to use Apple Macs for nearly 15 years now and which has been damn near unbelievable since 1995. I have a feeling that a change is drawing near.

Thanks for nothing,

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